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WCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Monday, June 13, 2011

Teleconference Call
WCA Office
Madison, WI

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: President Buechel called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

ROLL CALL: Alice Connors, Keith Langenhahn, Gus Wirth, Jr., Dick Koeppen, and Allen Buechel. **STAFF:** Mark D. O'Connell, Lyn Bradstreet, J. Michael Blaska, Jon Hochkammer, John Reinemann, Brenda Brown Swenson, Josh Bindl, Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf, David Callender and Doug Parrott. **OTHERS PRESENT:** Dan Fedderly, Wisconsin County Highway Association and Michelle Thompson, Thompson Communications.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Buechel thanked everyone for participating in the meeting on such short notice. He called the meeting to discuss Motion 352 (transportation package) as part of the state budget.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. O'Connell provided the committee with the following background regarding Joint Committee on Finance motion 352 related to transportation funding.

There has existed a multi-year frictional relationship between private road builders and counties regarding which work should be performed by whom. In the closing days of the 2009-2011 biennial budget, the State Senate attempted to place in the budget a provision which would have greatly restricted the activities of county highway departments. WCA worked with then Joint Committee on Finance co-chair Mark Pocan to defeat this effort and, as an alternative, enter into an agreement wherein local government officials and transportation industry representatives would talk in the hopes of reaching consensus as to which entities should perform particular work.

Those discussions ensued and had been ongoing since late 2009. The talks had been referred to as the "summit talks".

While the governor did not put forward any substantive county highway department restrictive language in his budget, during budget consideration by the Joint Committee on finance, conversation surfaced that some form of restrictive language was going to be inserted into the budget somewhat reflective of the summit talks. WCA staff investigated and determined that, in fact, language restricting some of the actions of county highway departments would be included in the budget. While conversations with the Governor's office occurred, all intelligence indicated that what eventually became known as motion 352, which included some restrictions on the activities of county highway departments but also included approximately \$50 million in funding more than the Governor's proposed budget, was as good as it was going to get. WCA then signed off on motion 352 the specific provisions of which are available and generally known.

Several counties expressed concern regarding the provisions. Outagamie County in particular was deeply concerned. Representatives of Outagamie County contacted several other counties and expressed concern regarding the provisions of motion 352. It was at this time that Senator Ellis publicly denounced motion 352 and indicated that action should be taken to modify it.

Also at this time, various counties and county highway commissioners expressed concern regarding the provisions of motion 352. A belief existed that an alternative to motion 352 was possible. All information indicated an alternative better than motion 352 was not at all likely and that something less desirable than motion 352 was certainly possible. During this time, Dan Fedderly of WCHA and Mark O'Connell of WCA had several conversations regarding the provisions of motion 352, the political landscape, and the need to work with the transportation industry for additional future transportation funding. Mr. Fedderly and Mr. O'Connell were in agreement that motion 352 had support in the legislature and that modifications or amendments thereto favorably responding to expressed concerns of local government were very unlikely.

On June 6 and 7, 2011, the WCHA conference was held at which the WCHA Board met. Motion 352 was a primary topic of conversation. While the WCHA leadership met at its board meeting and discussed the issue, the only action taken was to request a seat on a study committee included as part of motion 352. Consideration was given to WCHA opposing motion 352. Mr. O'Connell and Mr. Fedderly recommended against such action. No action was taken to either support or oppose motion 352.

On June 9, 2011, a memo from the Wisconsin County Executives and Administrators (WCEA) was sent to the legislature indicating deep concerns with motion 352 and requesting that the provisions be removed from the budget. The general perception of this memo was that the WCEA did not support motion 352.

On June 10, 2011, a memo from the WCHA President was sent to the legislature indicating that WCHA did not join WCA in endorsement of motion 352. The general perception of this memo was that WCHA was in opposition to motion 352.

The Executive Committee discussed the issue concluding that there was a great deal of misunderstanding regarding the issue and that, given the memo from the WCHA President, the prudent course of action would be to indicate to the legislature that more time was needed by WCHA and the transportation industry to clarify the issues on which agreement had been reached and discuss the issues on which no agreement had yet been had. The WCA Executive Committee also concluded that, based on the memos from the WCEA and the WCHA President, the general perception of these memos, and the pervasive misunderstanding of motion 352, more time to clarify and discuss the issues was needed. The WCA Executive Committee discussed the viability of having a letter sent to the legislature from President Buechel and Mr. O'Connell which did not change WCA's position of support for motion 352 but simply requested more time for government/industry discussions and a recommendation to the legislature. Discussion ensued that the letter include a request (consistent with a portion of the June 10, 2011 WCHA President's memo) that the non fiscal provisions of motion 352 be removed from the budget to permit more time for discussion and clarification of issues between industry representatives and local governments.

Further discussion was had regarding the public statements by WCEA and WCHA, inconsistent with WCA's support of motion 352, which necessitated action by the WCA Executive Committee. The WCA Executive committee did not consider changing WCA's position, but believed requesting more time to discuss and clarify issues with the industry was reasonable.

ASSOCIATION ISSUE:

a. Consideration of Transportation Package in the 2011-2013 Budget: Motion by LANGENHAHN, second by KOEPPEN, to respectfully request that the non-fiscal provisions in Motion 352 be removed from the budget to permit further review and discussion between local governments and transportation industry interests and get back to the legislature with an agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS AS ALLOWED BY LAW: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by WIRTH, second by CONNORS, to adjourn. Motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.